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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

## **REPORT**

### **THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES ON ITS NINTH SESSION BEIRUT, 23-25 MARCH 2011**

#### **Summary**

The ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources was held in Beirut from 23 to 25 March 2011 and considered the items on its agenda.

The session agenda included priority issues such as the progress achieved in assessing the vulnerability of the water resources sector in the Arab region to the impact of climate change and the regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation. It also included items on the integrated management of shared water resources, the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth session and the proposed programme of work of ESCWA in the field of water resources for the biennium 2012-2013.

The Committee made a set of recommendations relating to each agenda item. This report comprises a brief review of the discussions of each agenda item and the recommendations that were made. This report was adopted by the Committee at its closing session, which was held on 25 March 2011.

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## **Introduction**

1. The ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources was held pursuant to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, concerning the establishment of a committee on water resources in ESCWA, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/26 of 24 July 1995; and pursuant also to the recommendations issued by the Committee on Water Resources at its eighth session, held in Beirut from 17 to 19 December 2008, which were adopted by the twenty-fifth ESCWA session, held in Sana'a from 26 to 29 May 2008.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AT ITS NINTH SESSION**

2. At the conclusion of its ninth session, the Committee on Water Resources adopted a set of recommendations to member countries and ESCWA, which are set forth below.

#### **A. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES**

3. The Committee made the following recommendations to member countries:

(a) Inform the donors funding national climate change projects under the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region;

(b) Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with government focal points, and carry out the activities organized by the Arab Ministerial Water Council and entrust ESCWA to fully or partly implement them; and implement the results and recommendations emanating from intergovernmental meetings and expert group meetings organized by ESCWA;

(c) Inform the government representatives in the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) of the necessity to nominate focal points to follow up on the implementation of the regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal related to water and sanitation in the Arab region (MDG+); and suggest to establish national teams representing the different stakeholders to follow up on the implementation of the initiative at the national level;

(d) Encourage the parties responsible for mapping and identifying the shared water resources to take advantage of the inventory of shared water resources in the Western Asia region that is being prepared within the framework of the regional cooperation project between ESCWA and the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR);

(e) Facilitate the access of ESCWA to information and data related to the work of the Committee on Water Resources and the work programme of the Water Resources Section.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO ESCWA**

4. The Committee made the following recommendations to ESCWA:

(a) Continue to support the work of the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of the AMWC in implementing its programmes, especially in the follow-up of the recommendations and decisions concerning ESCWA activities in the field of climate change, MDGs and shared water resources in the Arab region;

(b) Provide the members of the Committee on Water Resources with copies of the different AMWC decisions concerning ESCWA; and provide member countries with soft copies of the reports prepared by ESCWA on the follow-up to the Council decisions within an appropriate time frame;

(c) Continue to participate in regional and international coordination mechanisms such as UN-Water and make the necessary preparations for the regional coordination mechanism and its related working groups in order to enhance the coordination of the programmes and activities of the water resources sector in the region;

(d) Enhance the work of ESCWA and respond to the needs of the member countries in the field of water resources through participating in the international and regional forums such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; the Sixth World Water Forum (Marseille, 2012); Stockholm World Water Week; Arab Water Forum; and the meetings of the AMWC to raise awareness on water issues in the region;

(e) Continue to support the technical cooperation programmes and provide advisory services to member countries upon their request, after they have clearly articulated their needs and prepared the terms of reference in coordination with ESCWA. The need to respond and handle requests in a timely manner was stressed;

(f) Send a request to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to extend the joint regional cooperation project between ESCWA and the BGR in order to support the work programme of ESCWA for the next biennium;

(g) Follow up the proposal of the Committee to convene its session annually to activate its role in implementing its programme of work and study the possibility to convene a yearly preparatory meeting until the proposal is endorsed;

(h) Provide the members of the Committee with a semi-annual electronic report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the planned activities of the Water Resources Section;

(i) Continue to support the preparation of the draft legal framework on shared water resources in the Arab region in conformity with the resolutions of AMWC and within the regional cooperation project between ESCWA and BGR;

(j) Send formal requests to the members of the Committee to nominate national focal points to follow up the preparation of an inventory of shared water resources in the ESCWA region. It is very important that the members of the Committee respond to the requests within two weeks of the date of receipt;

(k) Take into account the close relationship between the integrated management of shared water resources and the issues of Arab food security, green energy and green economy when developing future programmes for ESCWA; and pay special attention to the integrated management of shared water resources in view of its importance to Arab water security;

(l) Provide national and regional policymakers with the results of the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region, within the appropriate time frame and geographical context, in order to prepare and formulate appropriate policies at the national and regional levels;

(m) Include issues related to the vulnerability of the marine environmental resources and extreme weather events in the regional initiative;

(n) Inform the donors funding regional climate change projects and adaptation strategies in the region of the launching of the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region; and welcome the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to the initiative;

(o) Continue to monitor and document the progress achieved in implementing the MDGs related to water supply and sanitation; and implement the regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the MDGs related to water and sanitation (MDG+) in the Arab region. This initiative will be implemented in response to the decisions of AMWC and the necessary resources will be mobilized for building capacity, collecting data and developing indicators and measurement techniques.

## **II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. STATUS OF THE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE ARAB WATER SECTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE (Item 4 of the agenda)**

5. With regard to this item, the Committee on Water Resources was presented with document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/3 on the status of the vulnerability assessment of the Arab water sector to climate change. The Committee reviewed the document through two consecutive presentations. The first presentation highlighted the process that led to reaching a series of high-level political commitments to prepare a study on the effects of climate change on the region and undertake a vulnerability assessment of the Arab countries to climate change. The second presentation tackled the resolutions and decisions related to the Regional Coordination Mechanism in charge of coordinating the work of the different United Nations organizations in the region. This mechanism, administered by ESCWA, led to launching the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region. The presentation explained the role of the working group on climate change, entrusted with many regional tasks and joint activities.

6. At the end of the presentations, a number of country representatives raised points about the application of the global climate models to assess the vulnerability of the member countries. The representative of Jordan highlighted the need for communication between the member countries and ESCWA, inviting ESCWA to make practical suggestions based on the results of the studies. He stressed the need for short-term predictions on climate change to be used for development planning. The representative of Bahrain stressed the need for these predictions to be more accurate and effective with respect to natural disasters. The representative of the Sudan invited ESCWA to take advantage of the studies prepared by other regions. He pointed out that climate change may have negative effects on some regions and positive effects on others. The representative of Saudi Arabia agreed with him with respect to conflicting climate predictions, especially that some studies forecast a decrease in precipitations while others predict an increase. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic inquired about the extent of coordination between ESCWA and the donors with respect to climate studies.

7. The session concluded by reiterating the importance of the study prepared by ESCWA being the first study to cover all Arab countries. This will allow them to have a unified position as to climate change in the international forums and will give them more weight in global negotiations.

### **B. REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MECHANISM TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELATED TO WATER AND SANITATION IN THE ARAB REGION (MDG+) (Item 5 of the agenda)**

8. The Committee on Water Resources was presented with document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/4. It included a review of the activities aimed at launching a regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the MDGs related to water and sanitation in the Arab region,

including consultation, coordination and cooperation with stakeholders. The presentation provided an overview of the current situation and of the progress achieved in implementing the goals in the Arab countries. It also included a description of the technical, administrative and financial indicators related to the management of water and sanitation services, and introduced the main indicators of the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) that monitors the progress made in the implementation of target 7.c of the MDGs. The presentation addressed the components, indicators, challenges and constraints of the process that led to entrusting ESCWA with task of developing a regional initiative in cooperation with a number of regional associations and organizations. Special emphasis was placed on the questionnaire template due to its importance in collecting data, monitoring and reporting. The questionnaire was circulated to member countries for comment and will be filled in at a later stage.

9. The participants were then given the chance to comment on the presentation and on the questionnaire to be filled by member countries. The representative of Jordan commented on the definition of the "improved services" for water supply, which, according to him, should focus on the delivery of water to households from a supplying network. The representative of Palestine commented on the water quality criteria that only take into account the disinfection of water, but could still remain unsuitable for drinking. The representative of Bahrain stated that the investment in the water sector is positively reflected on other social services such as education and health. The representative of the Sudan raised the issue of the standards that vary among countries and sometimes between rural and urban areas or even within the same rural area, and wondered about the data to be collected and analysed at this stage. The participants also stressed the need to enhance coordination between ESCWA and member countries to guarantee that all of them receive the questionnaire.

10. The session concluded by reiterating the importance that the concerned parties accurately fill in the related questionnaires after consulting their ministries and departments involved in water and sanitation services. The participants encouraged member countries to continue their efforts to improve drinking water and sanitation and to use the water indicators and indices in collecting data, monitoring and reporting.

### C. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES (Item 6 of the agenda)

11. After the presentation that highlighted the status of progress in the preparation of the legal framework on shared water resources in the Arab region, as per the resolution of the AMWC, participants made interventions on the shared water resources in their countries, with a special focus on the institutional and legal procedures related to the management of the shared water resources.

12. The representative of Yemen, the Chairman of the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources, distributed copies of a technical presentation prepared by staff of the Ministry of Water and Environment in coordination with ESCWA on al Wajeed aquifer shared between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Then, the representative of Palestine described the status of shared waters in his country and the administrative structure of the Palestinian water sector. He also addressed the issues of shared aquifers and surface water sources, water consumption, joint committees and the water sector reform programmes.

13. The representative of Iraq recounted the institutional and legal developments of the management of shared water resources in Iraq pointing out the reduction of water flow of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and highlighted the strategy adopted with neighbouring countries for the management of these rivers. He then addressed some policy issues identifying the national actions that need to be taken in order to address the issue of the decreasing water-flow rates.

14. The representative of Saudi Arabia addressed groundwater aquifers that are shared with neighbouring countries and their management measures, pointing to the fact that Yemen has the biggest part of al Wajeed

aquifer and that there isn't any coordination for its management between both countries. He also described the other shared groundwater aquifers between Saudi Arabia and neighbouring Gulf countries.

15. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic pointed out the sharp drop in groundwater level leading to the depletion of springs. He mentioned the institutional and legal framework for the management of shared water resources, focusing on talks and bilateral treaties with Iraq and Lebanon. He stressed on the role of the specialized technical joint committees in following up bilateral relations, assuring that the agreements concluded with Lebanon stand as the best experience in cooperation in the management of shared water resources in the region.

16. The representative of the Sudan explained that his country shares the Nile river with nine other countries, emphasizing its deteriorating condition. 70 per cent of rainfalls occur in the south of the country, concentrating most of its runoff there. As for groundwater, he explained that the Nubian Sandstone aquifer is shared by Egypt, Libya, the Sudan and Chad, noting that Libya is the biggest beneficiary of its water, withdrawing groundwater to use it in the northern region through the Great Man-Made River.

17. The representative of Oman pointed out that the water shortage in his country reached 25 per cent, relying mainly on groundwater and that desalinated water constitutes 13 per cent of the available water. He added that the aquifer shared with Saudi Arabia and Yemen is of poor water quality.

18. According to the representative of Jordan, almost 40 per cent of the country's water resources come from shared surface or groundwater resources. Of shared surface water, he mentioned the Yarmouk basin and the agreement with the Syrian Arab Republic. As for shared groundwater, he mentioned the cooperation initiative with Saudi Arabia in the exploitation of the Disi aquifer.

19. The representative of Qatar pointed to the absence of shared water between his country and the neighbouring countries.

20. The Committee on Shared Water Resources considered the document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/5 on the Integrated Management of Water Resources which comprises two parts. In the first part, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/5(Part I), the Committee reviewed the development of a regional legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region. The second part, (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/5Part II) reviews the lessons learned from the experience in shared water resources management in the region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

21. The Committee considered in this context the issue of developing a regional legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region. The framework aims at meeting the future challenges and requirements of sustainable development and is based on the resolutions of the AMWC requesting ESCWA and the Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security to draft the legal framework on shared water resources in the Arab region. It was agreed that the optimal use of shared water resources needs a political will and a consensus among the sharing parties, a legal framework and strong institutional capacities. The participants highlighted then the necessity to develop a legal framework for the region to regulate cooperation in the field of shared water; the specificities of the Arab region such as water scarcity, high dependence on shared waters, population growth, dependence on agriculture, virtual water, political influence and institutional capacity. The main conclusions highlighted the necessity to define a clear legal basis when dealing with shared water resources putting aside the political considerations and clarifying the actions to be undertaken in the implementation of the two phases identified for the preparation of the legal framework.

22. The members of the Committee on Water Resources commended the efforts of ESCWA in the field of integrated management of shared water resources, especially as to the development of the legal framework for shared water resources. They agreed that the main problem is the absence of a clear vision for addressing the issue of water scarcity and its relation to food security, noting that some countries are almost

self-sustained, while others are looking for agricultural investment in countries where water is more readily available. They finally called for the development of a common vision for water issues in the region under the umbrella of the League of Arab States and of a general framework to determine the regional profile and direction and facilitate the formation of bilateral agreements for the management of shared water resources.

23. The ESCWA-BGR inventory on shared water resources in Western Asia was then presented. The presentation started with defining the project and its goals that include raising awareness among decision makers, experts and the public; enhancing access to information on shared water resources; and supporting the regional processes to promote dialogue and cooperation in this area. The implementation phases of the study were also explained, and included the collection, revision, verification and publication of information, and the presentation of the main findings of the study to date. It was also highlighted that the next step will be the establishment of a working team to be in charge of reviewing the study and enhancing cooperation and coordination between concerned parties in member countries.

24. The discussion then focused on the mechanism to be adopted to verify the data contained in the study before its publication. Some participants proposed to establish a smaller committee to liaise between member countries and the authors of the study to review the information it contains, ensure its accuracy and reliability, complement it and determine the mechanism for exchanging information and data. Other participants suggested to appoint focal points for a specified period of time for the interchange, revision and assessment of the scientific information. They also tackled the difference in the nomenclature of basins in the various areas and the need to adopt a mechanism for the standardization of names and to communicate in this regard with non-Arab countries such as Iran and Turkey that share basins with member countries.

D. REVIEW OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES SINCE  
THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES  
(Item 7 of the agenda)

25. The Committee on Water Resources reviewed this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/6, which comprises two parts. The first part, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/6(Part I) includes a review of the essential activities carried out pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee at its eighth session. The second part, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/6(Part II) includes reviews of the activities carried out between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Committee in addition to the current activities. Those documents were introduced in three successive presentations.

26. The first presentation addressed the activities carried out in implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Water Resources at its eighth session. They included providing consultancy, convening regional expert group meetings as well as intergovernmental consultative meetings, carrying out regional projects, preparing studies and technical materials, organizing workshops, cooperating at the regional level and assisting some member countries in monitoring shared water resources. Some of the accomplished activities were also related to water supply and sanitation and to providing consultancy services to member countries in the period 2009-2010.

27. The second presentation included an overview of the organizational structure of ESCWA in the field of technical cooperation, including regional advisory services provided by ESCWA through training and capacity-building in different areas, such as women empowerment, environment, water and MDGs. The number of requests ESCWA received from member countries to provide services was highlighted and examples were given on the services provided to some countries such as Bahrain, Oman, Palestine and Saudi Arabia.

28. The ESCWA-BGR project on technical assistance was the subject of the last presentation. The aim of the project is to provide technical assistance to some member countries in monitoring shared water resources in order to collect more reliable and comprehensive information and enhance the technical capacity of

ministries and agencies concerned with the management of shared water resources. The presentation also highlighted the main components of the programme which are chosen according to the needs of the countries and the availability of funds. It also addressed the mechanism followed by Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic in requesting technical assistance services.

29. At the end of the presentations, the Committee members commended the efforts made by ESCWA in the preparation of the water resources studies, technical papers and publications. On the issue of technical assistance to member countries in the area of monitoring shared water resources, participants raised questions about the nature of assistance to be provided, the mechanism adopted in dealing with requests and the commitments to be made by member countries. The criteria for accepting requests were thus clarified, along with the actions undertaken upon receipt and approval of the request, starting with the field visit and progressing to the provision of the required equipments. The need for the requests to be specific, tailored to the national needs and to take into account funding limitations was also highlighted.

**E. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013  
IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES  
(Item 8 of the agenda)**

30. The Committee on Water Resources considered this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/7 which comprises ESCWA's programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of water resources and constitutes the general framework for developing and implementing the strategies, policies and programmes of ESCWA in the field of sustainable development and productivity. A representative of the secretariat clarified the steps ESCWA had taken in adopting its programme of work, including deliberations with ESCWA focal points in member countries and the ESCWA Advisory Committee. The representative of the secretariat invited member country representatives to put forward suggestions on the activities to be undertaken. Committee members agreed to adopt the programme of work as set out in this document.

31. The proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of water resources was then approved as set out in the proposed document. Some representatives of member countries expressed their desire that the programme includes the issues of gender and waste water reuse.

**F. DATE AND VENUE OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES  
(Item 9 of the agenda)**

32. The Committee will hold its tenth session in March 2013 in Beirut, provided that no other member country offers to host it. The date of the session will be determined following consultations between ESCWA and the Committee members.

**G. OTHER MATTERS  
(Item 10 of the agenda)**

33. There were no other matters.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER  
RESOURCES ON ITS NINTH SESSION  
(Item 11 of the agenda)**

34. At its closing session, held on 25 March 2011, the Committee adopted the report on its ninth session, included in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/8/Report.

## IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

### A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE MEETING

35. The ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources was held at United Nations House, ESCWA headquarters in Beirut, from 23 to 25 March 2011. A total of six meetings were held.

### B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

36. Mr. Said Ali Al-Duair, representative of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources, made a statement in which he welcomed the participants and noted the efforts made by ESCWA in working with member countries on water issues in the Arab region. He said that the main challenge facing food and water security is the lack of an efficient integrated management of water resources. He outlined water scarcity, pollution and excessive use, and waste water management, treatment and reuse as the main priorities to be addressed. Mr. Al-Duair mentioned a number of projects carried out by the Ministry of Water and Electricity in Saudi Arabia such as the comprehensive national plan for water, and a number of detailed water studies about the aquifers in the sedimentary strata and the Arabian shield. He expressed his wishes for the success of the session in achieving its goals.

37. Ms. Anhar Hejazi delivered a statement on behalf of Ms. Rima Khalaf, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA. After welcoming the participants and wishing them success, she stressed on the importance of the meetings of the Committee on Water Resources since they provide an opportunity to exchange experience and success stories and to follow up the international and regional developments in the field of water resources, contributing to the achievement of MDGs. She commended the achievements made in enhancing water use efficiency and improving the management of drinking water and sanitation services and addressed problems member countries continue to face such as the excessive use of surface and ground water resources, pointing to the resulting damages. Ms. Hejazi stressed the need to find appropriate solutions to these problems in order to meet the requirements of the development programmes in the region. She finally highlighted the convergence of the efforts made by ESCWA and the League of Arab States to achieve sustainable development through capacity-building, policymaking and taking the necessary measures to develop the water resources sector.

### C. PARTICIPANTS

38. Representatives of 12 ESCWA member countries took part in the session: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The session was also attended by representatives from the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) and the BGR. A list of participants is included in annex I of the present report.

### D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

39. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, section V, rule 18, provides that member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all other officers.\* Accordingly, after Saudi Arabia assumed the chairmanship of the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources, Yemen assumed the chairmanship of the ninth session represented by Mr. Adel Yahya Al-Haddad. The participants agreed with the Chairman of the session to designate the chairmen of the previous and next sessions as Vice-Chairmen, and the representative of the country that will assume the chairmanship

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\* The Arabic alphabetized list of ESCWA member countries is as follows: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, The Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

of the Committee after two sessions as Rapporteur. Thus, the representative of Jordan and the representative of Saudi Arabia assumed the position of Vice-Chairmen and the representative of Bahrain that of Rapporteur instead of the representative of the United Arab Emirates who did not attend the meeting.

#### E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

40. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda of its ninth session in the form in which it appears in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/L.1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Status of the vulnerability assessment of the Arab water sector to climate change.
5. Regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals related to water and sanitation in the Arab region (MDG+).
6. Integrated management of shared water resources:
  - (a) Development of a regional legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region;
  - (b) Lessons learned from the experience in shared water resources management in the region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
7. Review of actions taken in the field of water resources since the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources:
  - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its eighth session;
  - (b) Implementation of water resources-related activities under ESCWA programme of work.
8. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of water resources.
9. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its ninth session.

41. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the proposed organization of work that is contained in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/L.2.

#### F. DOCUMENTS

42. The list of documents presented to the Committee on Water Resources at its ninth session is included in annex II of this report.

Annex I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Mr. Abdulla Ali Abdulla  
Chief, Water Conservation Section  
Electricity and Water Conservation Directorate  
Electricity & Water Authority

Egypt

Mr. Mohamed Mamdouh  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Egypt in Beirut

Iraq

Mr. Aun Dhiab Abdullah  
General Director, National Center for Water  
Management  
Ministry of Water Resources

Ms. Aseel Adel Fatah  
Irrigation Engineer  
Ministry of Planning and Development  
Cooperation

Ms. Fian Mouaffaq Fadel  
Third Secretary

Mr. Raed Khaled Youssef  
Third Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jordan

Mr. Ali Mohamed Subah  
Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Affairs  
Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Mr. Ziad Ahmed Obeidat  
Director of Programs and Projects  
Ministry of Planning and International  
Cooperation

Lebanon

Mr. Wisam Kanj  
Head of Irrigation Service  
Ministry of Energy and Water

Oman

Mr. Rached ben Yahya Al-Abri  
Director, Directorate of Water Resources  
Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment  
and Water Resources

Palestine

Mr. Ahmed S. Alyaqoubi  
Director General, Water Resources General  
Directorate  
Palestinian Water Authority

Qatar

Mr. Ali Seif Al Malki  
Director, Water Networks  
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Said Ali Al-Duair  
Director General, Water Resources Development  
Department  
Ministry of Water and Electricity

The Sudan

Mr. Ahmed Adam Ibrahim Kabo  
General Manager of Projects  
Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Rateb Saegh  
Chief, Water Resources Section  
Assistant-Director, Integrated Management  
Ministry of Irrigation

Syrian Arab Republic (continued)

Mr. Ersan Ersan  
Director, Kneitra Water Resources  
Ministry of Irrigation

Yemen

Mr. Adel Yahya Al-Haddad  
Deputy Minister for Water Affairs  
Ministry of Water and Environment

B. OBSERVERS

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Mr. Marco Keiner  
Director, Environment Division

Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural  
Resources for Germany (BGR)

Mr. Arne Hoffmann-Rothe  
Head of Unit, International Cooperation  
Asia, Oceania

Mr. Wolfgang Schroeder  
Project Coordinator and Desk Officer Lebanon

Mr. Klaus Schelkes  
Head of Unit  
Groundwater – Dynamics and Management

Mr. Andreas Renck  
Project Coordinator, ESCWA-BGR cooperation

Mr. Yusuf Al-Mooji  
Senior Water Expert, ESCWA-BGR cooperation

Ms. Eileen Maternowski  
ESCWA-BGR cooperation

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

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Symbol	Item	Title
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/INF.1		Information note
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/L.1	3	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/L.2	3	Organization of work
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/3	4	Status of the vulnerability assessment of the Arab water sector to climate change
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/4	5	Regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals related to water and sanitation in the Arab region (MDG+)
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/5	6	Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources:
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/5(Part I)	6 (a)	Development of a regional legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/5(Part II)	6 (b)	Lessons learned from the experience in shared water resources management in the region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/6	7	Review of actions taken in the field of water resources since the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources:
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/6(Part I)	7 (a)	Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its eighth session
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/6(Part II)	7 (b)	Implementation of water resources-related activities under ESCWA programme of work
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/7	8	Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of water resources

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